

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A patio awning lock mechanism comprising:
a roller tube assembly; and
a weather shield provided over at least a portion of the roller tube assembly;
wherein the weather shield is selectively engageable with the roller tube assembly
via a lock mechanism that locks a roller tube of the roller tube assembly to prevent
rotation of the roller tube assembly.
2. (original) The patio awning lock mechanism of claim 1, further comprising a disk
gear coupled to the roller tube assembly.
3. (original) The patio awning lock mechanism of claim 1, further comprising a disk
gear catch coupled to the weather shield and selectively engageable with the disk gear to
prevent rotation of the roller tube assembly.
4. (original) The patio awning lock mechanism of claim 1, further comprising a
pivot bracket rotatably coupled to the weather shield.
5. (original) The patio awning lock mechanism of claim 4, wherein the pivot
bracket has an angular shape with first and second mounting apertures located at
opposing ends of the pivot bracket.
6. (original) The patio awning lock mechanism of claim 4, further comprising a
pivot rod to rotatably couple the pivot bracket to the weather shield.

7. (original) The patio awning lock mechanism of claim 4, wherein the pivot bracket is coupled to a support arm in a non-rotatable manner.
8. (currently amended) The patio awning lock mechanism of claim 4, wherein the pivot bracket is coupled to the roller tube assembly ~~in a non-rotatable manner~~ such that the roller tube assembly can rotate without any rotation by the pivot bracket.
9. (original) The patio awning lock mechanism of claim 1, further comprising an end cap provided on an end portion of the roller tube assembly, the end cap having a projection that abuts with a disk gear.
10. (original) The patio awning lock mechanism of claim 9, wherein the disk gear is integrally formed with the end cap.
11. (original) The patio awning lock mechanism of claim 1, further comprising a disk gear having a plurality of circumferentially spaced teeth about a periphery of the disk gear such that a disk gear catch can engage the disk gear at one or more stops formed between the circumferentially spaced teeth.
12. (original) The patio awning lock mechanism of claim 11, wherein the disk gear catch includes a straight portion to engage the disk gear and an arcuate portion that corresponds with a curvature of the weather shield such that the disk gear catch can be secured to the weather shield.
13. (original) The patio awning lock mechanism of claim 1, further comprising a spring to bias the lock mechanism into a locked position.
14. (original) The patio awning lock mechanism of claim 1, wherein the weather shield includes a lip portion to facilitate grasping and pivoting of the weather shield.

15. (original) A patio awning lock mechanism comprising:
a pair of support arms;
a roller located between top ends of the support arms;
a weather shield provided over a portion of the roller; and
a pivot bracket having an angular shape, wherein a first portion of the pivot bracket is rotatably coupled to the weather shield and a second portion of the pivot bracket is fixably coupled to one of the support arms.
16. (original) The patio awning lock mechanism of claim 15, further comprising a disk gear provided between the pivot bracket and the roller.
17. (original) The patio awning lock mechanism of claim 16, further comprising a disk gear catch secured to the weather shield and operable to engage the disk gear.
18. (original) The patio awning lock mechanism of claim 15, further comprising a torsion spring to bias the pivot bracket and weather shield into a locked position.
19. (original) The patio awning lock mechanism of claim 15, wherein the weather shield includes a lip portion to facilitate grasping and pivoting of the weather shield by a user.
20. (original) A patio awning lock mechanism comprising:
a roller;
a weather shield provided over a portion of the roller;
lock means coupled to the roller and operable to rotate with the roller; and
engaging means coupled to the weather shield and operable to engage the lock means to retain a patio awning in a retracted or extended position.
21. (new) The patio awning lock mechanism of claim 1, wherein the weather shield comprises a shield configured to protect an awning rollable on the roller tube assembly from environmental effects.

22. (new) The patio awning lock mechanism of claim 15, wherein the weather shield comprises a shield configured to protect an awning rollable on the roller from environmental effects.

23. (new) The patio awning lock mechanism of claim 20, wherein the weather shield comprises a shield configured to protect an awning rollable on the roller from environmental effects.